

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR  
PENNSYLVANIA PHARMACIES AND PHARMACISTS  
— ELECTRONIC PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

On June 1, 2010, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) allowed the use of electronic prescriptions for C-II through C-V controlled substances, as long as, it complied with the particular state's regulations. However, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) regulations still require a written prescription, or oral, for **ALL** controlled substances.

Currently, the DOH regulations are in conflict with the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy regulations, which are also different than the DEA. When conflicts such as these occur, the **MOST STRINGENT REGULATIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED**, which in this case means the DOH.

Physicians are permitted to fax a physically-signed copy of a C-II through C-V prescription or they may call the pharmacy. The pharmacist must reduce the prescription to written form, which will serve as the oral prescription. Obviously, this is not permitted for C-II.

If you receive an electronic prescription for a controlled substance, please notify the physician that the state regulation has not changed, and all Pennsylvania pharmacies must comply with the stated regulation.

- ◆ **C-II** The physician will need to physically sign the prescription.
- ◆ **C-III-V** Call the physician. With their permission, treat the electronic prescription as an oral prescription and reduce to written format.